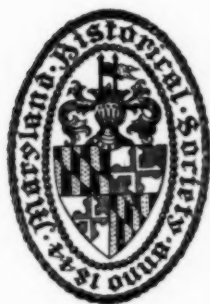


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General
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ARCHIVES OF MARYLAND

Edited by J. HALL PLEASANTS, M. D.

Published by authority of the State

VOLUME LII

Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland,
1755-56

This is the 52nd volume of the general series and the twenty-fourth of the sub-series relating to Assembly affairs. As is usually the case, the letter of transmittal to the Society, is a scholarly monograph on the period covered.

The years 1755 and 1756 were marked in Maryland by increased military activity on the western frontier against the French; the disastrous defeat of Braddock at the Monongahela; and at home by increased tension and bickering between the Upper and Lower houses of Assembly. The seeds of dissension between the absentee landlord and his tenants had already been sown, and had taken root in the soil fertilized by mutual distrust and by dissensions on the subject of taxation; the seedling was being prepared for a vigorous, independent growth when a few years later it was to be further nourished by an added resentment against the King and his schemes of Taxation. The Roman Catholic question was also agitating the fears and prejudices, of the people. The abortive Scotch uprising in favor of the Young Pretender, although it had resulted in Charles Edward's defeat at Culloden in 1746, still filled men's minds with fear, and various additional repressive measures against Catholics in England ensued. The aggressions of the French, a Catholic nation, on the western frontier, and the outrages practiced by their Indian allies, caused the religious question to blaze up in Maryland with even greater intensity than in England.

In the Appendix may be found a number of hitherto unpublished papers, preserved among the manuscript archives of the State, reflecting upon the proceedings of the Assembly for the years 1755-1756.

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